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# New eye on FBI's break-ins

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By JOSEPH VOLZ

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said yesterday he wants to know what kind of foreign intelligence break-ins—and how many—the FBI is conducting before he votes for FBI Director William Webster to be come CIA head.

The Senate Intelligence Committee is expected to vote next week on Webster's bid to succeed ailing former CIA Director William Casey. Joint Senate-House hearings on the Iran-Contra scandal, which will include the FBI's role in investigating—or not investigating—the Contra connection will begin May 5 and are expected to last three months.

## Not investigated

A series of mysterious break-ins against anti-Contra religious groups is being probed by congressional investigators and special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh. The church groups have alleged that Contra groups, supported by the Reagan administration, have engaged in illegal arms and drug trafficking. They contend that the FBI may have been involved—or may have looked the other way—while right-wing pro-Contra organizations carried out more than 50 black-bag jobs nationwide.

Webster has declined to investigate most of the break-ins on orders from Assistant Attorney Gen. William Bradford Reynolds, head of the Justice civil rights division,

who said that the break-ins do not seem to violate any federal law.

FBI officials have denied that they conducted any of the break-ins against the church groups.

Webster testified last week, however, that the bureau does carry out a "few" break-ins against foreign intelligence targets without court order. Officials said that the Senate and House Intelligence panels are briefed on the so-called "warrantless searches."

The FBI targets presumably are Soviet-bloc spies operating out of Washington embassies, and Libyan or PLO supporters.

DeConcini, a new member of the intelligence panel, told the Daily News in an interview that he has not been told how many break-ins have been conducted or who the targets were. But he added that Webster "left me with the impression it was six or less a year."

A House Intelligence Committee source confirmed that staffers are briefed on the circumstances of the "warrantless searches" but not given the names of the organizations.

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